

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A process for preparing polymeric beads of complexing resin incorporating magnetic particles, which process comprises: producing a dispersion having a continuous aqueous phase and a dispersed organic phase, said organic phase comprising one or more polymerisable monomers, magnetic particles and a dispersing agent for dispersing said magnetic particles in the organic phase; polymerising said one or more polymerisable monomers to form polymeric beads incorporating said magnetic particles, wherein said polymeric beads include amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation, or wherein said polymeric beads are reacted with one or more compounds to provide amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation.
2. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the organic phase comprises two or more monomers.
3. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 2~~ claim 1 wherein said one or more polymerisable monomers are selected from:
 - (a) crosslinking monomers which are able to provide crosslink points; and
 - (b) functional monomers which are able to provide functional groups.
4. (Original) The process according to claim 3 wherein said functional monomer provides amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation.
5. (Original) The process according to claim 4 wherein said functional monomer provides amine groups selected from dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate, aminopropyl acrylamide and methacrylamide, N,N-dimethylaminopropyl acrylamide and methacrylamide, vinyl pyridine, organic-soluble diallylamine or vinylimidazole salts.

6. (Original) The process according to claim 3 wherein said functional monomer includes a functional group capable of reaction with one or more compounds to provide said amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation.
7. (Original) The process according to claim 6 wherein said functional monomer capable of providing amine groups includes an amide group.
8. (Original) The process according to claim 7 wherein said functional monomer including an amide group is selected from N-vinyl formamide and N-methyl-N-vinyl acetamide.
9. (Original) The process according to claim 6 wherein said functional monomer capable of providing amine groups includes an epoxy group.
10. (Currently Amended) The ~~processing~~ process according to claim 9 wherein said functional monomer including an epoxy group is glycidyl methacrylate.
11. (Original) The process according to claim 6 wherein said functional monomer capable of providing amine groups is a vinyl ester.
12. (Original) The process according to claim 11 wherein said vinyl ester is selected from acrylate or methacrylate esters.
13. (Currently Amended) The ~~processing~~ process according to claim 12 wherein the acrylate ester is methyl acrylate.
14. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1 wherein said one or more polymerisable monomers further includes one or more backbone monomers.

15. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1 wherein said dispersed organic phase further comprises a porogen.

16. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1 wherein the magnetic particles are selected from γ -iron oxide, magnetite and chromium dioxide.

17. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 16~~ claim 1 wherein the dispersion is stabilised using a stabilising agent.

18. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 17~~ claim 1 wherein the dispersing agent reacts with at least one monomer to become covalently bound within the polymeric beads.

19. (Original) Polymeric beads of complexing resin comprising a polymer matrix having magnetic particles dispersed substantially uniformly therein, wherein the polymer matrix incorporates amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation.

20. (Original) The polymeric beads of claim 19, wherein the polymeric matrix incorporates a dispersing agent covalently bound within the polymeric matrix.

21. (Currently Amended) A complexing resin prepared by the process of ~~any one of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1.